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REVIEW OF THE UNFPA INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMME, 1992-1995

Report of the Executive Director

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I. OVERVIEW

1. In decision 91/35, the Governing Council approved the UNFPA intercountry programme in the amount of \$178 million for 1992-1995 -- a total of \$66.4 million for the four regional programmes and \$111.6 for the interregional programme. In implementing the approved programme, the Executive Director decided to reduce the allocation of the intercountry programme to \$152 million, to align it with the actual financial resources of UNFPA during the period. The expenditures and allocations for activities in the various substantive programme areas for 1992-1995 are presented in table 1.

Table 1. The intercountry programme, by programme area, 1992-1995

Programme Area	1992-1995 (\$ millions)	%
Maternal and child health/ family planning	45.8	30.13
Information, education and communication	33.1	21.78
Basic data collection	5.3	3.49
Population dynamics	15.5	10.20
Population policy	26.0	17.10
Special programmes	13.6	8.95
Multisectoral activities	<u>12.7</u>	<u>8.35</u>
TOTAL	152.0	100.00

Note: Figures include project expenditures for 1992-1994 and project allocations for 1995.

2. Slightly more than half the available funds were assigned to the priority areas of maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) and information, education and communication (IEC). The percentage originally approved for these two major workplan categories was 52.9 per cent; under the reduced allocation, these two categories constituted 51.9 per cent of the programme. As the programme was implemented, a higher percentage of activities took place in policy research and training, and a lower proportion in basic data collection.

3. In the previous intercountry programme for 1988-1991, approximately four fifths of the resources were for activities executed by organizations and agencies of the United Nations system; in the 1992-1995 programme, 43 per cent of the resources were for activities executed by United Nations organizations and agencies. The remainder of the programme was executed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

4. The intercountry programme provided support to all substantive programme areas of UNFPA through three major types of activities -- research, training and the dissemination of information -- focusing on the continuation of successful projects and on the development of new initiatives.

A. Research

5. UNFPA continued its support to contraceptive research with the aim of benefiting country programmes by making available a wide variety of safe contraceptives. At the same time, concern for the availability of contraceptives worldwide prompted UNFPA to launch the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s, which included in-depth research in 12 countries concerning their anticipated contraceptive needs. Through the World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA supported research on maternal health and the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity. Guidelines were published on research methods and counselling in the field of adolescent reproductive health, an area in which UNFPA-assisted projects successfully increased awareness, globally and nationally.

6. A major research effort supported by UNFPA was the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD), which produced, for the first time, a complete set of socio-economic, demographic and health data for all Arab countries. Information on maternal and child health has already served as an input in the development of country policies. UNFPA also supported a variety of policy-oriented research undertakings on women, including a study by The Population Council on the relationship between gender equity, family structure and reproductive choices. Other research efforts related to women included support for the development of the Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base for microcomputers (WISTAT) and a research project executed by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) on population and environmental linkages, and the role of women as resource users. UNFPA supported research in international migration through projects of the United Nations Population Division, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

7. Notwithstanding the reduced resources for basic population data, an impressive array of new methodologies for rapid data analysis and dissemination were developed and strengthened, such as REDATAM, POPMAP (see para. 55 below) and the Population Information Network (POPIN).

B. Training

8. UNFPA continued its support to major training activities, among them the Global Training Programme in Population and Sustainable Development, which successfully trained 360 participants from 92 countries. The Global Programme also initiated the transfer of European-based training programmes to developing countries.

9. In sub-Saharan Africa, regional training programmes in demography produced a significant core group of specialists who, upon return to their countries, were instrumental in creating population awareness and in formulating population policies. In Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA supported a programme of population studies at the International Institute for Population Studies and, in Latin America and the Caribbean, a programme of fellowships for training in demographic analysis. UNFPA also supported training for health professionals, including a project to upgrade training in reproductive health for professors in health science schools.

C. Awareness creation and information dissemination

10. To maximize awareness of the importance of integrating population in development policies and programmes, UNFPA supported the incorporation of population education into the ongoing programmes of other United Nations organizations. At the same time, through support to both scientific and non-technical publications and by funding translations and worldwide distribution of publications, UNFPA promoted attention to population issues and brought state-of-the-art information on new technologies and research findings to the attention of national research institutions and policy makers. A project with Al-Azhar University served to clarify population issues in the context of Islam. A South Asian Regional Conference on Safe Motherhood served to create awareness concerning the need to improve health services to women. In Tehran, a regional conference was organized for the Central Asian Republics on aspects of reproductive health.

D. Evaluations and project reviews

11. UNFPA followed up the implementation of intercountry projects through review meetings, project progress reports and independent evaluations. These assessments indicated that the projects were largely successful in reaching their objectives. Some projects, however, suffered considerable implementation delays. Also, it was found that sociocultural research was difficult to carry out at the intercountry level, and certain topics, such as population and environment, and international migration, were so complex that more time was needed to gather findings useful for policy formulation and programme implementation. Assessments also found that the impact of training programmes was sometimes unmeasurable.

12. In addition to indicating project successes and constraints, the reviews and evaluations pointed to certain new directions that were incorporated in the Fund's recent initiatives. A UNFPA evaluation of projects executed by WHO indicated a need for more effective ways of disseminating up-to-date knowledge to service providers. The findings of this evaluation and UNFPA assessments of country needs in family planning pointed clearly to the advantages of adopting a comprehensive reproductive health approach, in which the quality of services is as important as the quantity of services delivered and the reaching of quantitative targets. Reviews of the results of activities in the area of women, population and development (WPD) highlighted the importance of mainstreaming gender issues in all of UNFPA-supported activities.

II. SECTORAL ACTIVITIES

A. Maternal and child health and family planning

Interregional programme

13. In the area of MCH/FP, the interregional programme's objective was to address concerns in developing countries in regard to the need: (a) to develop reliable and safer contraceptives; (b) to develop tools to ascertain contraceptive requirements and production and marketing capabilities in developing countries; (c) to call attention to unacceptable and preventable high levels of maternal

mortality and to implement changes in service delivery to address its causes; (d) to devise approaches and mechanisms to address the reproductive health needs of adolescents in ways acceptable to them and in line with society's values; (e) to improve management of MCH/FP country projects by addressing management needs for contraceptive guidelines, for fast, user-friendly monitoring and evaluation systems and for problem-solving operational research; and (f) to accelerate the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

14. To improve the quality of care and to increase the contraceptive choices available to couples and individuals, efforts are needed to develop new methods of contraception and to improve existing methods. UNFPA contributed significantly to the success of The Population Council's Contraceptive Development Programme, particularly for work on subdermal implants for females and males, contraceptive rings, intra-uterine devices (IUDs), a vaccine for men, a new method of vasectomy, a transdermal system for women, and spermicides/microbicides. NORPLANT® was approved in more countries during this period and is now available in 38 countries. The Post-marketing Surveillance Study of NORPLANT implants, carried out by The Population Council in collaboration with WHO and Family Health International (FHI), will continue through 1997. The World Health Organization/Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (WHO/HRP) continued to undertake contraceptive research and development and to strengthen the capability of developing countries to carry out research on reproductive health. During this period, WHO/HRP worked with research institutions located in 54 developing countries and 26 developed countries. WHO/HRP completed the development of two injectable preparations -- Cyclofem and Mesigna. Cyclofem was promoted through the Concept Foundation, a non-profit organization established under the sponsorship of UNFPA and WHO/HRP, among others. Schering AG obtained registration of Mesigna in six countries and intended to begin marketing it in early 1995. These efforts have increased the quality and quantity of contraceptive methods available in developing countries. This experience has demonstrated that effective development of these products requires long-term cooperation between national and international agencies.

15. Planners and programme managers have been concerned about the steadily growing need for a reliable and low-cost supply of contraceptives. In 1991, UNFPA, working in partnership with selected developing countries, bilateral agencies, NGOs and other organizations, launched the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s. Through the Global Initiative, in-depth studies have been conducted in 12 developing countries to ascertain their contraceptive requirements, logistics management needs, the potential for local production of contraception, and costs over a 10-year period. The Global Initiative has been funded by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), the Rockefeller Foundation, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), the World Bank and UNFPA. The Global Initiative has played a key role in promoting a better understanding of contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs in those countries where in-depth studies have been completed. It has also led to a regular exchange of information and increased coordination among donors with regard to meeting the contraceptive needs of developing countries. Simultaneously, the Global Initiative has promoted further thinking on the need to estimate and service unmet needs.

16. Additional activities accomplished under the Global Initiative included the publication and dissemination of technical reports on the country studies; the development of a process for follow-up

action plans in countries where studies have been completed and reports published; publication (in English, French and Spanish) and dissemination of a guide to procurement entitled *Contraceptive Procurement: Options for Programme Managers*; the development of a database on donor support for contraceptive commodities; the publication and dissemination of an update of global estimates for contraceptives, entitled *Contraceptive Use and Commodity Costs in Developing Countries, 1994-2005*; and the preparation of a discussion paper on the idea of a global contraceptive commodity fund.

17. To improve health and, in particular, to reduce the mortality of vulnerable populations, the interregional programme has supported, through WHO, research on maternal health and the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity. An evaluation of projects indicated that, at the global level and to a lesser extent at the national level, the interregional projects helped to increase awareness about unacceptably high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity and to focus attention on clinical and service issues. Related efforts through the Safe Motherhood project reviewed the effectiveness of interventions and identified strategies for implementation of programmatic activities. The projects were less successful, however, in producing training materials, developing innovative research methodologies and producing research results that directly guided national health planning. It has been recommended that these activities be carried out at the national level for best results.

18. UNFPA-assisted projects successfully increased the focus on adolescent reproductive health issues, globally and nationally, according to an independent evaluation of interregional projects on adolescent reproductive health. These projects also produced important guidelines on research methods and counselling training, and the publication *The Health of Young People: A Challenge and a Promise*, which brings together much of what is known in the field. However, the evaluation also noted the need for promoting more focus, setting priorities and developing a strategy for assisting countries in implementing programmes to effect technology transfer. Activities supported through WHO have produced useful materials on adolescent reproductive health.

19. Other interregional activities included the development and field-testing of methodologies for strengthening management and information in MCH/FP programmes, for rapidly evaluating MCH/FP services, for fostering problem-solving research and addressing operational issues, for designing and refining the District Problem Solving Team method, and for developing indicators of MCH/FP health status and service performance. These activities were elements of a project executed by WHO. An evaluation concluded that, despite modest investment, imprecise objectives and inadequate project monitoring, the project resulted in several products with significant potential for future applications.

20. Support continued for the integrated family planning and public health activities of the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP), which focused on promoting technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), monitoring projects and providing technical backstopping to regional and country-level MCH/FP projects in more than a dozen countries.

21. With respect to supervision and evaluation of MCH/FP, the interregional programme supported activities in setting standards for family planning and contraceptive technology. Guidelines were developed on: the contraceptive method mix; community-based distribution of contraceptives; IUD

services; prevention and management of infertility; and AIDS prevention in MCH/FP programmes, among others. An evaluation, which found evidence that some sections of the guidelines were unclear and that distribution of the guidelines was inadequate, recommended, inter alia, simplifying the text, broadening the distribution to practitioners and targeted recipients, systematically promoting the guidelines and translating them into local languages.

22. The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to increase in Africa and is growing in importance in Asia. The spread of the disease across all geographic regions and all groups of the population highlights the need for a worldwide effort focused on preventing infection and improving the treatment of those affected. Support continued for HIV/AIDS prevention activities at the regional and interregional levels, within the scope of the overall global strategy of the WHO/Global Programme on AIDS and in close collaboration with United Nations organizations and NGOs. UNFPA supported the WHO/GPA Task Force on HIV/AIDS Coordination, including a grant for the publication of the Biennial Report of HIV/AIDS Activities, and is one of the cosponsors and active partners in the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Regional programmes

23. Sub-Saharan Africa. UNFPA supported the training of 270 regional trainees in clinical family planning at the Mauritius Institute of Health and 49 trainees in a course which rotated among Portuguese-speaking African countries and which was technically backstopped by the Ministry of Health of Portugal. Due to the increasing availability of clinically trained personnel in most countries of the region, efforts, as yet not entirely successful, were made to convert these regional courses into courses of excellence for those with an expected training function (tutors in schools of medicine, nursing, and midwifery; members of in-service training teams; district supervisors, etc.). Additionally, support was provided to Laval University (Canada) for short-term training in MCH/FP management for 140 francophone health personnel and to the University of Montreal for the provision of 10-month training programme for a total of 96. Both programmes are moving in 1995 to Dakar, Senegal, where they will rely much more heavily on African faculty.

24. At the regional level, relatively little support was provided for MCH/FP research. Despite a growing recognition of the critical need to reach adolescents, regional efforts were modest and centred on a training programme in advocacy and in peer-to-peer counselling techniques, conducted by WHO, for approximately 60 trainees from 15 countries.

25. Reviews of the above efforts as well as appraisals of country programmes point to the need to reorient regional training to a broader reproductive health focus and to strengthen courses of excellence for trainers and managers on topics such as the creation of more accessible and sustainable service networks through Government-NGO collaboration and effective supervision and logistics systems. Additionally, regional technical support is required for the country-level collection and analysis of data needed for planning, monitoring and evaluating interventions in reproductive health.

26. Arab States and Europe. Assistance was provided to expand MCH services in Gaza and the West Bank through two projects implemented by UNRWA. An evaluation conducted in March 1995

concluded that the projects had successfully expanded MCH/FP coverage, reduced infant and child mortality, and trained 215 health care providers in clinical family planning skills, 18 medical doctors and 19 nurses and midwives in IUD insertion, and 24 medical officers in obstetric and reproductive health care. The evaluation revealed in particular a significant improvement in the quality of care and provision of postnatal care. It noted the successful application of an integrated approach based on counselling concerning birth-spacing and the provision of family planning services, which resulted in an increase of modern contraceptive prevalence. Project implementation was delayed, however. There was also a lack of involvement of local NGOs in project implementation, due to insufficient resources and limited experience, especially in project management. Consequently, the evaluation recommended that an integrated strategy be developed to enhance the NGO role in the provision of health services, in accordance with the policy and standards of the Palestinian National Authority.

27. Regional training programmes in management information systems (MIS) and family planning counselling and training for trainers did not begin as planned because of a delay in recruiting the MIS adviser in the regional Country Support Team (CST) based in Amman, Jordan. Strengthening NGO capacity and establishing national MIS systems are main elements of the proposed regional programme for 1996-1999.

28. In Europe, to address the urgent need for training in reproductive health and counselling among health care professionals, UNFPA provided funds for two training courses, with a total of 45 participants. Although most of the countries with economies in transition (CET) report an increasing interest in contraceptives, induced abortion remains the principal means of fertility regulation. Moreover, some countries report an increase in teen-age pregnancies, and many report increasing rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV infections.

29. Asia and the Pacific. Assistance was provided to the Society for International Development to organize a South Asian regional conference on "Safe Motherhood in South Asia: Challenges Ahead". Support was also provided for six fellowships for an executive programme in health and population, a collaborative activity of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the Indian Institute of Health Management Research in Jaipur, India. Assistance was provided to JOICFP for a community-based MCH/FP project in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and the Philippines to enable local women's NGOs to improve their response to service needs and to enhance management capabilities. Support was also provided to the International Federation for Family Life Promotion for a workshop related to family life education. A regional conference on family planning was organized in Tehran so that the Central Asian Republics could learn about various aspects of reproductive health. A conference on women and reproductive health was organized in Kathmandu so that SAARC countries could identify common problems.

30. Latin America and the Caribbean. In partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and with NGOs, the regional programme supported projects to expand reproductive health services and to develop service delivery models, methodologies, standards and training modules. UNFPA supported the efforts of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in aiding deprived populations in the Western Hemisphere. Several Safe Motherhood meetings were held in collaboration with FHI and PAHO.

31. Satisfactory results were achieved in several respects:

(a) Project execution was highly participatory, with PAHO and UNFPA (at both headquarters and field offices) making deliberate efforts to build national, as opposed to only government, capacity through the involvement of NGOs. Projects focused on priority countries, unresolved needs and the improvement of both operational research and training, rather than focusing primarily on the most accessible countries and customary themes, such as theoretical models for service delivery or learning processes, developed mostly at headquarters, as was the case in the past;

(b) Although much remains to be done, projects contributed to an increasing awareness among national health experts of new concepts and issues, such as quality of care, maternal health surveillance and reproductive health training in the health science schools. The projects started to develop reproductive health approaches, methodologies, standards and training modules that reflect new concepts and techniques. These project outcomes will be utilized by the public health sectors in the region. Many teaching tools and innovative models for services and learning were produced;

(c) Under a quality of care project, new models to improve the quality of reproductive health care at the service level were also developed and tested, and a curriculum to train trainers was designed. A maternal mortality project produced norms and training modules for family planning in post-partum and post-abortion and emergency obstetric care. New service delivery models for the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality, and low-cost models for assessing coverage and the effectiveness of emergency obstetric care were developed. Methodologies to improve knowledge among professors in health sciences schools were developed under a project for upgrading training in reproductive health in health science schools. Three regional training centres for teacher training were being developed, and curricula and teaching materials were produced;

(d) An adolescent reproductive health care project designed and tested integrated models for adolescent reproductive health care and established reference centres for the production and dissemination of educational materials. The management of MCH/FP programmes project, which began recently, is developing a new participatory model to provide training in the management of reproductive health programmes.

32. Also, special efforts were made to strengthen the provision of reproductive health services through women's NGOs, e.g., under a project for provision of reproductive health services through women's NGOs. Fourteen NGOs in the region contributed to the development of training curricula and IEC materials in reproductive health and sexual health rights, conducting national seminars on women's health and reproductive rights, undertaking research on the effects of pesticides on reproductive health and exchanging information on these topics to improve and expand services and ensure sensitivity to gender concerns. To ensure the provision of quality reproductive health services and to contribute to their self-sustainability, UNFPA also supported IPPF Western Hemisphere efforts with most deprived populations and focused on strengthening evaluation activities and on drawing lessons for overall improvements in service delivery.

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B. Information, education and communication

Interregional programme

33. IEC activities in the interregional programme were intended primarily to address developing country needs to: (a) create awareness among youth of population and reproductive health issues; (b) integrate population education into the programmes of related sectors, such as rural communities and factories; (c) take sociocultural values into consideration in the design of family planning programmes; and (d) utilize the most recent information on population issues.

34. Interregional IEC activities included a family life education project implemented at the country level, which involved numerous NGOs and United Nations agencies. Aimed at launching youth-to-youth communication activities in family planning, the project was completed in five of six countries: Colombia, Egypt, Jamaica, Senegal and Sri Lanka. Owing to a lack of interest among some of the NGOs involved, implementation in Sierra Leone was slow, but has been reactivated since 1993. More than 15,500 young people (of whom 65 per cent were male) were trained, and a total of 74 NGOs and 18 government offices were involved in the activities. Training topics included: reproductive health and family planning; consequences of early marriage and pregnancy; female sexuality and safe motherhood; contraception; abortion; and STDs. The results indicated that: (a) mobilizing youth is effective and not costly; (b) projects selected by youth result in positive attitudes and deep commitment to those activities; (c) it is important to build trust among youth and their organizations; and (d) governmental institutions and NGOs can collaborate effectively.

35. Several projects continued to integrate population education into various programmes through the development, production and adaptation of training and prototype materials and modules under the execution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the ILO.

36. FAO executed four projects. One of these, a project for rural youth, aimed at adapting education leader guides for out-of-school rural youth to specific country situations and at institutionalizing population education as a component of rural youth programmes. Field tests were carried out at the village level in Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe; activities were completed in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe; and work in China was almost completed. Activities for Viet Nam and Peru were still under way. Initial implementation of activities was slower than expected owing to the prolonged vacancy of the FAO rural youth officer's post for most of 1992 and 1993. FAO has decided on a new strategy, to work with clusters of countries in a region. In Central America, the response to the initiative has been uneven. In those countries where reaction has been enthusiastic, young people have called for more information on reproductive health, resulting in the formation of new alliances between ministries and among ministries and NGOs. Additional countries are to be included (in sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania; in Asia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand; and in Latin America, Bolivia and Venezuela).

37. In a project to provide training on population in support of agricultural extension services, eight countries were contacted to identify suitable training institutions or centres which would be interested

in training agricultural extension workers in population education matters. Institutions were identified in Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania. Follow-up communication with training institutions in Burkina Faso and Morocco was made, and additional institutions in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and, possibly, Kenya, are to be contacted. The project's strategy utilized a participatory approach, whereby the institutions were involved in designing and developing the training curricula, syllabi, guides and learning materials and in providing for translation, adaptation and testing of training materials and methods at the country level, to facilitate appropriate use of the materials by national and local trainers. Another project to integrate population factors into forestry planning and programming at the intermediate and community levels in selected regions was supported.

38. FAO also executed a project to strengthen research and training in population and development dynamics of rural fishing communities. Initially expected to be completed within this cycle, only preparatory activities have taken place. These activities consisted of reviewing existing data on population and development regarding fishing communities in Africa and Asia. Institutions and development agencies were identified in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania. The main phase of the project will enter the next cycle.

39. UNFPA supported UNESCO in convening the 1993 International Congress on Population Education and Development, held in Istanbul, at which the Istanbul Declaration on Population Education and Development and the Framework for Population Education on the Eve of the Twenty-First Century were adopted by the 92 States attending. The Congress served to revitalize population education in many countries and motivated countries without experience in this area, such as Namibia, to launch national programmes. As a partner in the Education for All Initiative, the Fund co-sponsored, with UNESCO and UNICEF, the most important offshoot of the Jomtien Conference and Forum, the "Nine Largest Countries Initiative", in which Heads of State of the world's nine most populous countries gathered in New Delhi in November 1993 to make a commitment to achieve basic education for all by the year 2000, with special emphasis on girls' enrolment and retention in the primary school system. As a result, the nine countries increased their national budgetary allocations for education and launched a collaborative effort in distance learning. The Ministers of Education from the nine countries have continued to meet periodically, and the Heads of State met in 1995, on the occasion of the World Summit for Social Development, to reiterate their commitment to education, with emphasis on the education of girls. The high profile of the World Conference on Education for All and the Fund's active participation with other United Nations agencies and organizations, and Governments, in its follow-up, contributed to the favourable treatment of education at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

40. A project to promote university-level population education was not implemented as envisaged. In response to needs that emerged after the project was formulated, it is being reoriented in an attempt to gain greater involvement of selected university schools and faculties of education in the promotion and upgrading of population education in national systems of education, as well as to lend university leadership to the continuing development of this field around the world.

41. UNESCO undertook a study to systematize available knowledge on sociocultural factors affecting demographic behaviour and draw practical conclusions for the formulation of population policies and the improvement of programme performance. Institutions in Africa, the Arab States and Latin America undertook literature searches. Two reports were prepared: the first dealt with reproductive rights as part of human rights in Brazil and India; the second reviewed sociocultural factors and sexuality patterns affecting STDs, in general, and AIDS, in particular. An expert group meeting was held in November 1993 to discuss project strategies for the next three years. However, institutional and staff changes in UNESCO affected the successful implementation of the project. Owing to the importance of sociocultural research, especially in the reproductive health and family planning and population IEC fields, the project is being reformulated.

42. The ILO continued to train workers through its Population and Family Welfare Education (PFWE) programme, which included the operation of the Population Education Clearing House. In collaboration with the PFWE programme, a regional project was developed to provide vocational training for girls in four anglophone African countries. In addition, a course on population was included in the ILO international training centre in Turin. The ILO also completed, in 1994, a series of software packages and organized a seminar for training CST members in their use.

43. Publications have been an integral part of the intercountry IEC programme. The publication of the *Annual Review of Population Law* continued during 1992-1995, based on an agreement between UNFPA and Harvard University, with distribution to United Nations field offices and leading research institutes in developing countries. In cooperation with the Social Development Centre of the University of Chicago, the programme supported publication of the eight-volume *Readings in Population Research Methodology*, which was sent without charge to major research institutes and universities in developing countries. Support was continued for the production and dissemination of newsletters and other information materials to audiences throughout the developing world, through regional and interregional projects with United Nations specialized agencies and NGOs. Assistance was provided for *JOICFP News; Integration*, which contains articles contributed by professionals working on population issues in the United Nations and other agencies and organizations; the French and Spanish versions of *International Family Planning Perspectives*, by the Alan Guttmacher Institute; and a quarterly magazine, *People & the Planet*. In addition, support was provided for the production of training manuals, including *Training of Trainers* and *Project Design* by the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA).

44. Also noteworthy are the *State of World Population* report, and the annual *Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World* and its companion volume, the triennial *Guide to Sources of International Population Assistance*, which have helped to promote awareness of, and disseminate information worldwide on, population and related issues. In recent years, the annual *State of World Population* report, produced in more than 20 languages, has received increasing coverage by the media in developed and developing countries and was widely used at the country level to generate interest in population activities.

45. To assist Governments in meeting their increasing needs for accurate, up-to-date information on population policies and programmes, technologies and field experience, support was provided for

various electronic databases and software packages aimed at information dissemination and awareness creation. New technological applications are being adopted, e.g., CD-ROM and Windows. Cooperation with the United Nations Population Division has been successful in further developing POPIN. The POPIN gopher is part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gopher system, which in early 1994 had 2,000 daily users. With the Internet connection, the number of potential users now reaches 20 million worldwide. The project provided all relevant documentation through the network during ICPD. In cooperation with The Johns Hopkins University, UNFPA has continued to develop a population reference network (POPLINE). To facilitate the dissemination of the population literature data to less developed regions, the CD-ROM version of the database has been developed. Updates of the data disk are being distributed to developing countries through the offices of UNFPA Representatives and Country Directors.

Regional programmes

46. Sub-Saharan Africa. The principal achievement of the regional programme in IEC was the institutionalization of anglophone regional training courses at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communications (KIMC) in Nairobi, Kenya. KIMC offered courses on IEC organization, management and strategy development; audience research and message development; and materials development. It also provided courses for 300 trainers of health workers on family counselling skills, which have been viewed as highly useful for national population programmes. The analogous centre for francophone trainees was staffed and established in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, only in late 1994 and will not offer courses before 1996. Other regional activities under the IEC rubric included ad hoc support for film production and the provision of population clocks and cards, as educational and information tools, to educational and training institutions, government offices and NGOs. Although useful, they do not constitute a systematic approach to improving country-level IEC.

47. Arab States and Europe. A project at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, continued to produce publications and IEC materials and to conduct related travelling seminars for religious leaders in the Arab region as well as in some African countries. An independent evaluation conducted in 1994 reported that this was the first large international project which dealt with population and family planning issues in the context of Islam and which endeavoured to set up an international network in the Islamic community to deal with these issues. One of the project's most important achievements was to have clarified, on the basis of the Holy Koran, the Shariah (Islamic law) and the Hadith (Muslim tradition), the position of Islam on issues of human reproduction and family planning. As a result, the resistance of religious leaders to family planning decreased while their recognition of the benefits of contraceptive use for child-spacing and for improving the health of mothers and children increased. The evaluation noted, however, the lack of involvement of the countries benefitting from the travelling seminars. Nevertheless, given the positive impact of the project and its pioneer approach to influencing religious leaders in the Muslim world with regard to population issues, the evaluation recommended further UNFPA support to Al-Azhar University so as not to lose the momentum that has been gained.

48. In Europe, the magazine *Entre Nous*, produced in collaboration with WHO-Copenhagen, has provided a forum for information exchange among reproductive health care providers, responding to the growing interest in family planning and reproductive health in the countries with economies in

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transition. By providing Russian and Hungarian translations, *Entre Nous* has played a major information-education role in targeting the needs of the readership in those countries.

49. Asia and the Pacific. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) received support to strengthen the capabilities of national population information centres and networks in the region. UNESCO also received support for the Regional Clearinghouse on Population Education and Communication, which enlarged national capabilities in organizing and providing information services.

50. Latin America and the Caribbean. An innovative FAO-executed project, implemented by local NGOs or government units, depending on the country, aimed at reaching rural young people in several Central American countries, through such organizations as extension agencies and youth groups. The messages concerned reproductive health, with an emphasis on girls and young women. Although it is too early to assess the project's impact, training and workshops were successfully conducted. Work has been conducted in close association with country projects of both FAO and UNFPA in Central America as well as with local representatives of both agencies. A project component aimed at preventing drug consumption and the spread of AIDS among youngsters may be added in 1995, in collaboration with the United Nations Vienna Centre and FAO.

51. As part of efforts to enlarge the base of partners collaborating with UNFPA regional efforts to reach out to priority groups, such as young people and women, the Ibero-American Organization of Youth became a new partner in IEC and undertook the preparation of a Regional Programme of Action for the Development of Youth in Latin America, including key reproductive health themes. The Latin American Women's Press Agency (FEMPRESS) and the Latin American Women's Health Network, which have been active partners in IEC regional activities and which aim explicitly at reaching out to women's NGOs, disseminated information on gender awareness and women's empowerment. Support was also provided to the International Association of Students in Economic and Management to include population topics in its educational activities. Both before and after the ICPD, support to the Interamerican Parliamentary Group helped increase awareness of population issues among parliamentarians and journalists in the region, with excellent results.

52. Another new partnership was established with cooperative organizations in the region, with the strong support of the UNFPA/ILO TSS specialist, to include population issues in their work programmes. To this end, workshops were held for Andean and Central American groups. The project originated in a 1993 regional seminar on Cooperatives and Population organized in Costa Rica under the regional programme for Central American and some Caribbean countries. As a result, the Organization of the Cooperatives of the Americas (OCA) organized a seminar on Population and Development in the Andean subregion, in connection with the International Cooperative Summit organized in Cartagena, Colombia, in June 1994. In the OCA seminar, linkages between population and development issues and cooperatives were discussed, and a working group of cooperative representatives from Andean countries identified population activities of interest to the cooperative movement. Also, as a follow-up to the first seminar held in 1993 in Costa Rica, project proposals were developed for non-formal population education with the cooperative movement in several Central American countries, to be funded by UNFPA country programmes.

53. A project sponsored by the First Ladies of the region on prevention of adolescent pregnancy received the highest political support in the eight countries where it was undertaken. Implemented by local NGOs or government units, the project will permit each of the countries to benefit from the experiences of the others.

C. Population data collection and analysis

Interregional programme

54. In population data collection and analysis, the interregional programme's objective was to address developing countries' needs for: (a) easier access to available population data; (b) easier methods to update population information; and (c) access to regional and global information for comparative purposes and for the exchange of experiences.

55. In collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT) and the Population Division, UNFPA supported the development of innovative projects in data collection and analysis. An interactive information and decision support software package -- POPMAP -- developed at UNSTAT, combines graphics, spreadsheet information and mapping capabilities in an integrated geographical database. Regional training courses were organized to promote the national use of this planning tool. The programme also supported studies assessing the applicability of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for population and related statistical work. Activities to promote civil registration and vital statistics continue to be undertaken in cooperation with UNSTAT and the Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics.

56. In collaboration with UNSTAT, and with the participation of the Population Division, UNFPA held a Technical Support Services (TSS)/CST Workshop on Basic Data Collection and Analysis in New York, 15-20 May 1995. The workshop provided an opportunity for TSS specialists and CST advisers to examine recent developments, including a discussion of ICPD implications.

57. In the context of resource constraints and new methodological developments, a wide variety of agencies have shown increasing interest in the potential of techniques to generate programmatically useful data based on qualitative methodologies. An Expert Consultative Group Meeting on Rapid Assessment Procedures (RAPs) in Population Programmes was scheduled for July 1995, in New York, for the purpose of reviewing RAP techniques and applications, including the prospects for using RAPs to assess family planning programme effects.

58. UNFPA undertook a pilot project for the global monitoring of key indicators of reproductive health. The project, scheduled for completion in July 1995, assessed a tentative system for data collection and established a core set of indicators to be tested in six countries, from which data collection materials and standards will be produced. These efforts will assist in understanding the key dimensions of reproductive health programmes in developing countries.

Regional programmes

59. Sub-Saharan Africa. During the 1992-1995 period, relatively few activities were implemented in basic data, in part because the planned Africa Survey Programme was not initiated owing to a lack of consensus on technical and organizational matters.
60. Arab States and Europe. The 1992-1995 regional programme supported two survey programmes -- PAPCHILD and the Arab Gulf Survey on Maternal and Child Health. These surveys produced, for the first time, a nationally representative and internationally comparative set of socio-economic, demographic and health data covering the entire Arab region. Coupled with the project for strengthening the capacity of the Population Research Unit at the League of Arab States, the survey programmes helped develop national capacities and increased decision makers' awareness and commitment through training workshops and seminars. Through national seminars and debates involving policy and decision makers, these programmes had a significant impact in promoting and facilitating the formulation and implementation of multisectoral population policies and programmes in the region. As a result, nine Arab countries have formulated and adopted a comprehensive population policy with specific targets and implementation mechanisms that aim at achieving a balance between population growth and sustainable development. An independent evaluation of the PAPCHILD project in 1993 confirmed the project's beneficial effects in supporting country population programmes. It found that activities were of crucial importance to policy and decision makers. The major shortcoming was found to be the delay in publishing the survey's results. The evaluation recommended expanding the project to cover all countries of the region.
61. In Europe, UNFPA supported the Family and Fertility Survey project executed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The survey programme developed common core and modules questionnaires used in Eastern and Central European countries to produce nationally representative and internationally comparative sets of data on fertility and family formation.
62. Asia and the Pacific. UNFPA supported the programme of the International Institute for Population Studies, which awarded diplomas in population studies to more than 70 students. Assistance was also provided for a workshop for journalists on population and the environment.
63. Latin America and the Caribbean. UNFPA supported the Centro Latinoamericano de Demografia (Latin American Demographic Centre -- CELADE) in research and training, including the development of census modules and methodologies for estimating maternal and child mortality, and REDATAM, a system that works with multiple databases in order to, e.g., identify and locate populations to be served with social services. CELADE received funding for undertaking studies and conducting training, including preparatory work for the ICPD. Under UNFPA execution, additional funding was provided in 1994 for fellowships for short-term training in demographic analysis at CELADE. Annual reviews show that advances were made in the development of census modules, REDATAM, methodologies for estimating maternal and child mortality, etc. UNFPA conducted an independent evaluation in early 1995 as a basis for a revised cooperation programme. The programme will be based on the comparative advantages of CELADE vis-à-vis alternative institutions in the region or outside it, and aimed at obtaining the necessary analysis and methodological advances in the most

effective and cost-efficient manner to serve the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

64. The ILO implemented a project to strengthen governmental capacity to design and implement comprehensive population policies, aimed at the reduction of rural and urban poverty in the labour market. The ILO developed an integrated framework for developing population policies, which considers links between demographic factors, labour market characteristics and socio-economic variables in Latin American countries. National teams in the pilot countries -- Bolivia, Chile, Mexico and Panama -- carried out research to help in developing comprehensive population policies, with the ILO's technical assistance. A regional workshop was held to train the teams to use uniform research methodologies so that outcomes of national studies could be compared in regional studies.

65. As part of efforts to advance in-depth sociocultural research, the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), under the leadership of the CST adviser to whom it provides backstopping, executed a project in Costa Rica to promote inter-country cooperation in sociocultural research. Also in Central America, the Central American Commission on Population and Environment and Development under the Central American Parliament received support from, *inter alia*, the UNFPA CST based in Santiago, Chile, for developing a Central American Council on population and development issues.

D. Population research, training and policy development

Interregional programme

66. The specific objectives of the interregional programme in population research, training and policy development were: (a) to address the need to assist Governments, planners and policy makers of developing countries in better understanding the complex issue of the linkages between population, development and environment; (b) to improve the technical skills and enhance the capability of national staff in population in development planning; and (c) to enhance the quality of data collection and research skills of national staff.

67. Interregional activities in population research continued with the Population Division and NGOs, with specific attention to developing methodologies directly applicable to solving country-level problems. A series of research studies by the Population Division included an extensive bibliography of material pertaining to a study on excess female child mortality. In addition, a study on the family building process, with data from 15 countries, was under way.

68. Studies on international migration were conducted by the Population Division, the IOM and the ILO. The Population Division's project focused on research and analysis of data on international migration policies in selected countries, based on the extensive collection of national material. The survey report is scheduled for publication in 1996.

69. The main objective of the IOM project is to investigate the determinants of emigration by setting up a network of research institutions in developing countries for a coordinated analysis of migration

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phenomena from a wide variety of settings. In connection with this project, three regional research coordinators (in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America) and researchers at national institutions produced many research papers describing migratory movements in developing countries. This accomplishment is noteworthy because the migration literature has tended to be dominated by South-North migration from a developed-country perspective. The project also contributed significantly to the building of research capacity in institutions in several developing countries. The project has, however, not yet been able to advance understanding of the determinants of emigration beyond descriptive analyses. More in-depth studies will be undertaken in the second half of the project. Another planned activity is the organization of policy dialogues between researchers and policy makers at subregional forums. This would inform decision makers of the latest findings on emigration dynamics from this project, leading to better policies on migration. The ILO was preparing a manual with guidelines on international migration, based on a review of data collected from 22 countries, to help national institutions dealing with migration generate reliable data for migration policy analysis.

70. The Population Division, the United Nations University and several NGOs, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Climate Institute and the American Association for the Advancement of Science undertook research activities in population and environment at the interregional level. Support was also provided to UNSTAT for research to help developing countries evaluate their progress towards development goals.

71. Support continued to the UNFPA/Global Programme of Training in Population and Sustainable Development, which consists of a coordinated network of postgraduate training programmes in Belgium, Chile, Egypt, India and the Netherlands, and, most recently, Botswana and Morocco. In 1992-1995, the programme expanded by sponsoring 360 participants, including 156 women, from 92 developing countries. A new training component in English was established in 1993 at the Cairo Demographic Centre. In addition, the two training programmes located in Belgium and the Netherlands were transferred to the Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquee (INSEA), Rabat, Morocco, and the University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, both of which were scheduled to begin training in 1995. The transfer of programme components from European to developing-country bases and an increase in the number of participants were recommended by a 1990 independent evaluation of the Global Programme. Other evaluation recommendations implemented during the 1992-1995 programme cycle were the emphasis given to the problem-solving approach and to practical aspects of the integration of population in development planning. The training project developed by UNFPA at the Catholic University of Louvain led the University to institute a permanent Department of Population and Development Sciences, offering master's and Ph.D. degrees in population and development. Discussions are under way at the Institute of Social Studies, the former training site in the Netherlands, about establishing similar degree programmes.

72. UNFPA implemented a number of interregional projects concerned with population research, training and policy development in the 1992-1995 programming cycle. It organized a Consultative Meeting of Economists at UNFPA headquarters, New York, 28-29 September 1992, to discuss macro-level effects of rapid population growth on economic development in developing countries. A Second Consultative Meeting of Economists was held in New York, 11-12 April 1995. The Roundtable on Population and Development Strategies, held in Bangkok, 17-19 November 1993, was organized as part

of the preparations for ICPD to explore new approaches to integrating population concerns into development planning. With the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UNFPA supported a project designed to clarify why some countries create effective population policies while similar countries do not. The report is now being completed.

Regional programmes

73. Sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa, considerable progress was achieved in regional training in demography at the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographiques (IFORD) and the Institut Africain de Developpement Economique et de Planification (African Institute for Economic Development and Planning -- IDEP). The former two institutions trained at least 114 persons at the master's degree or higher level during the period; the latter trained 142 at regional and 39 at subregional levels. Additionally, the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Population pour le Developpement (The Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development -- CERPOD) was funded to conduct research on migration in the Sahel region and to provide training in MIS and population policy implementation. In the light of the increased availability of personnel trained in demography, UNFPA convened a meeting in Dakar, Senegal, in March 1994, to recommend changes in strategies for support to training in the region. It was concluded that, at the country level, UNFPA should emphasize undergraduate training while supporting advanced training in regional institutions such as RIPS, IFORD, IDEP and the Global Programme training sites.

74. Together with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the Government and the University of Mauritius, UNFPA supported the development of a model on population, development and environmental interrelationships that was presented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The model is being tested in Cape Verde.

75. A partnership was initiated with the Organization for African Unity (OAU) aimed at continual sensitization of African Governments concerning the importance of population dynamics for development and concerning support for population programmes. Under the auspices of the OAU, an African Population Commission was established, and a Population Declaration was adopted at the 1994 OAU Summit.

76. Arab States and Europe. In preparation for the ICPD, UNFPA supported the organization of the Arab Regional Population Conference, held in Amman, Jordan, 4-8 April 1993, as well as the Maghreb Conference on Population and Development, held in Tunis, Tunisia, 7-10 July 1993. Assistance was also provided to the Follow up Committee for Arab NGOs to organize a workshop in preparation for Arab NGOs' participation in ICPD and to enable participation in the Youth Forum '94 in preparation for the ICPD.

77. UNFPA supported the Population and Research Unit of the League of Arab States in conducting a regional research programme to analyse the determinants and characteristics of international and internal migration and to study the role and status of women. Support was also provided to cover the participation of trade union leaders from North Africa in the ILO-organized workshop on the Role of the Trade Unions in Africa in the Formulation and Implementation of National Population Programmes.

78. In Europe, UNFPA supported the organization of the European Population Conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 23-26 March 1993. It also supported the Consultative Meeting of Countries with Economies in Transition on the ICPD, which was hosted by the Government of Hungary in Budapest, 19-20 July 1994. The regional programme continued to assist the Population Activities Unit at ECE in three major projects on the study of international migration, the dynamics of population ageing and the policy challenges of demographic maturity in the European region.

79. Asia and the Pacific. In preparation for the ICPD, UNFPA supported the organization of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, 17-27 August 1992. Assistance was also provided for several studies in better using population data for local development planning. A study on rural-urban migration in four countries of the ESCAP region analysed trends in urbanization and, *inter alia*, assessed the impact of rural-urban migration on the status of women. Support was also provided for studies on the dynamics of population and environmental changes.

80. In the 1990 round of population censuses and national sample surveys, an increasing imbalance in the sex ratio at birth was noted in several South and East Asian countries, which alarmed Governments, agencies and social scientists. To address the issue, an International Symposium on Issues Related to Sex Preference for Children in the Rapidly Changing Demographic Dynamics in Asia, jointly sponsored by UNFPA and the Government of the Republic of Korea, was scheduled to be held in Seoul, 21-24 November 1995, with, among others, social scientists from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

81. Latin America and the Caribbean. In preparation for the ICPD, UNFPA supported a regional meeting on population and development held in Mexico City in May 1993, which finalized the Latin America and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, representing the regional position on ICPD issues. Several subregional meetings were also held before the ICPD, in San Salvador and in Port of Spain, to examine and to highlight the issues of greatest interest to these groups of countries. UNFPA contributed extensively to the regional preparations for both the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing, by holding briefings in countries and in New York, linking population issues and the results of the ICPD to the agendas of these two important conferences. Delegates to the preparatory committees of both conferences brought issues of reproductive health to their agendas.

82. A study on the economic return of investment in family planning and reproductive health was prepared as the basis for awareness creation among ministries of finance and budget.

E. Special programmes

Interregional programmes

83. Women, population and development. Activities in WPD supported by UNFPA in 1992-1995 were geared to continuing its efforts to ensure that women participate in all aspects of population programmes, that their concerns are reflected in proposed activities and that they benefit from the

results. Initiatives in this area were based on UNFPA's Strategy to Strengthen the Capacity of the Fund to Deal with Issues Concerning Women, Population and Development.

84. In pursuit of the strategy, the capacity of UNFPA staff has been strengthened to enable them to incorporate women's issues into population and development programmes as well as into the formulation of Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercises. Training was provided to about 70 participants at UNFPA headquarters, and similar activities at the field level began in 1995. UNFPA also incorporated WPD training into regular training programmes, thereby furthering the mainstreaming of women's concerns.

85. UNFPA also strengthened its support for women's reproductive health and reproductive rights through a major project executed by The Population Council. This was a policy-oriented research activity, studying the relationship between gender equity, family structure and dynamics, and the achievement of reproductive choice. The research was aimed at assisting Governments and international agencies in designing and implementing policies affirmative of women, sensitive to the family's central role in resource allocation and distribution, and effective in achieving broad-based population and development goals. Three reports were produced that provide critical reviews of the relationship between gender inequality and demographic behaviour in Egypt, Ghana, India and Kenya.

86. To draw attention to some of the traditional practices that are harmful to young women and girls, a major project provided information and training materials for programmes on female circumcision. Activities included the production of training materials that could be adapted for information campaigns in several African countries; training materials for seminars aimed at target groups including women, youth, community leaders and health workers, as well as training-of-trainers seminars and workshops organized by teams in each country to test training materials locally. The evaluation of these activities has yet to be undertaken; the next cycle will address the issue.

87. UNFPA also supported activities to provide information on the status of women and the development of training materials on gender statistics to highlight the issue of women's empowerment and women's rights. In collaboration with its partners of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) -- UNICEF, UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) -- UNFPA continued to improve statistics and indicators on women in selected countries, including the production of a manual on how to produce gender statistics.

88. Support was also provided for the development of WISTAT, which provides access to a wide range of data on social and economic issues related to women. A CD-ROM application was being developed. In addition, training was being provided in the design and use of databases in WPD. UNFPA also supported, with other donors, the second updated issue of *The World's Women 1970-1990, Trends and Statistics*, produced by UNSTAT. The volume is being expanded to include new topics, such as violence against women, reproductive health and reproductive rights.

89. Another notable activity receiving support was a research project executed by UNRISD concerning population and environmental linkages at the household and community levels. Its objectives were to investigate and document the role of women as resource users and managers of their local

environment. The project found that, in the context of population and environment, gender roles and the distribution of tasks are important because, in many societies, women are heads of households or are responsible for the daily food, firewood and other needs of the family. Therefore, it becomes essential to understand the direct toll environmental degradation takes on women's time, expenditures, caloric requirements and health, in general, and reproductive health, in particular. For the next cycle (1996-1999), efforts need to be strengthened to ensure women's active participation in population and environment programmes.

90. In keeping with the emphasis on strengthening links with NGOs, support was provided to enable representatives of several women's NGOs to participate in all major United Nations conferences, including the 1992 UNCED, the 1993 Human Rights Conference, the 1994 ICPD and the 1995 FWCW. UNFPA collaborated with women's NGOs in holding roundtables, seminars and expert group meetings for ICPD and FWCW. A member of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on FWCW, UNFPA also focused on carrying forward the recommendations from ICPD to the FWCW, emphasizing reproductive health needs and women's empowerment. Other Fund-supported NGO projects in WPD included managerial training and the production of advocacy materials for leaders of women's NGOs.

91. Ageing and youth. In the field of ageing, UNFPA assisted the International Institute of Ageing (INIA), Malta, in the training of 267 nationals from 33 developing countries in short-term courses in gerontology. Monographs on ageing were produced by INIA in collaboration with the Comité International de Coopération dans les Recherches Nationales en Démographie (Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography -- CICRED). In 1992, the then United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD), with UNFPA support, contributed to the International Conference on Ageing, organized by San Diego State University.

92. Interregional programmes for youth included the IPPF youth-for-youth project; an FAO project for out-of-school rural youth; and a World Assembly of Youth (WAY)-sponsored international youth workshop on adolescent health for youth workers and government officials (Kuala Lumpur, March 1993).

93. South-South cooperation. Important activities for South-South cooperation were developed at the interregional level. Support was provided for a project initiated by the Government of Indonesia, with the cooperation of the Governments of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands, aimed at sharing the experience of the Indonesian family planning programme with other developing regions. The project included internships in Indonesia, Observation Study Tours (OSTs), short-term consultancies and long-term advisory services. A second activity is the launching of "The Partnership: An Initiative for South-South Collaboration" during ICPD, which was strengthened by General Assembly recognition of its importance in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (resolution 49/128 of 16 December 1994). Activities are directed at fostering South-South cooperation networks by providing support to four countries -- Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Tunisia -- designated Centres of Excellence, so that these, in turn, can help others.

Regional programmes

94. Sub-Saharan Africa. Assistance was provided to CEDPA for training in management and evaluation for African women's organizations. By the end of 1995, it is expected that at least 45 women representing a variety of governmental and NGO organizations will have been trained in CEDPA's Washington, D.C.-based courses and 70 in subregional courses within Africa. An important result of that training was the creation of a network of leaders of organizations across both anglophone and francophone countries that stands ready, with some further assistance, to participate actively in population programme advocacy and services. In addition, the ongoing regional programme supported participants in the Regional Conference on Women in Dakar, Senegal; in regional seminars for women's NGOs; in ministerial consultations; and in regional workshops aimed at the development of a strategy for reaching ICPD objectives. These activities all appear to have been useful in terms of the development of strategy and the identification of new and potentially promising partners for dealing with the region's population problems. The next regional programme should focus on mobilizing these groups for effective participation in country population programmes.

95. Arab States and Europe. In the Arab States, an agreement was signed for establishing the Arab Women's Centre for Research and Training. Hosted by the Government of Tunisia, the Centre was set up with assistance from the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), UNDP, IPPF, the European Union and UNFPA. The Centre is not yet fully operational pending staff recruitment, which is ongoing. The establishment of women's databases in several countries was hampered by difficulty in identifying participating institutions. The regional programme also supported participants from Arab States at the Regional Conferences on Women in Amman, Jordan, and Dakar, Senegal. It also supported participants from countries with economies in transition at the high-level regional preparatory meeting for the FWCW in Vienna, Austria.

96. Asia and the Pacific. In Asia, ESCAP received support for a study on the role and status of women and major demographic variables, carried out in India, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand. JOICFP received assistance to synthesize policy research on ageing and to conduct regional seminars for policy makers, administrators and programme managers on policy needs concerning ageing and the elderly. Support was also provided to WAY to organize a workshop on population, environment and development programmes, with representatives of national youth councils from 15 countries. In addition, a regional project supported national and regional activities linking the ICPD Programme of Action to the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and the FWCW.

97. Latin America and the Caribbean. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the entire regional programme was restructured in 1993-1994 to allow for greater participation of women and youth in NGO-led programmes in reproductive health, the prevention of teen-age pregnancy and STD/AIDS, and abortion-prevention education. Broad support to link women's reproductive rights, household violence against women, and services to populations most in need furthered the considerable expansion of the network of women's NGOs involved in UNFPA-supported activities at regional and country levels. Indigenous women's groups and women in media received renewed attention.

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